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SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE: BIODATA ON NEW GUEBUZA CABINET (PART II)

REFS: (A) MAPUTO 184

(B) MAPUTO 161

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[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Please handle accordingly.
Not for internet distribution.

Introduction

[1](#)2. (U) This message reports biographical data for key ministers recently appointed by President Guebuza. The message follows biodata presented in reftel A. Biodata on additional cabinet members will be provided in septel. Sources include official ministerial biographies, local media reports, and information obtained from Embassy contacts.

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Manuel Chang, Minister of Finance

[1](#)3. (U) Manuel Chang replaces Luisa Diogo as Minister of Finance. Diogo was Finance Minister in Chissano's 2000-2005 government and also Prime Minister for the last year of Chissano's government and is now exclusively Prime Minister (ref A). Chang had served since 2000 as Vice Minister of Planning and Finance (Note: The mandate of this ministry in the Guebuza administration has been reduced in scope from both planning and finance to just finance; planning is now done by another ministry. End Note.) Chang received a degree in Economics from Eduardo Mondlane University in 1985 and a Master's in Economics from the University of London in 1992. Chang began his public service career with the Ministry of Planning and Finance in 1975. He gradually rose through the ranks, serving as Section Chief [1977-1988], Head of the Treasury Department [1989-1993], and National Director of Budget [1993-2000]. Until his appointment to the cabinet in 2000, he also served as President of the Auditing Council of the Bank of Mozambique and was a member of the Management Council of the Mozambique-Zimbabwe Pipeline (CPMZ).

[1](#)4. (U) Manuel Chang was born in Gaza province in 1955. He is the son of a Chinese farmer and Mozambican housewife.

Helena Taipo, Minister of Labor

[1](#)5. (U) Helena Taipo replaces Mario Sevene as Minister of Labor. She holds a degree in Psychology and Pedagogy from Maputo's Pedagogical University. Prior to her cabinet appointment, she served as Provincial Director of Labor for Nampula province.

[1](#)6. (SBU) Taipo, perhaps the least known member of the cabinet, is one of four cabinet members from Nampula province, the most populous province in the country. Her appointment is viewed by some as a reward for playing an active role in supporting FRELIMO's electoral campaign in Nampula. She is reported to be a dynamic and committed leader.

Lucas Chomera, Minister of State Administration

[1](#)7. (U) Lucas Chomera replaces Jose Chichava as Minister of State Administration. Until his appointment on February 5, Chomera served as governor of Zambezia province, the second most populous province in the country. Prior to assuming that role in 2000, Chomera was a senior official with the Ministry of Health. He is

one of 7 provincial governors who have risen to the rank of Minister under Guebuza.

18. (U) As governor of Zambezia, which is considered a RENAMO stronghold, Chomera was given the task of implementing government programs in a potentially hostile political environment.

19. (SBU) Making bureaucracy more efficient is one of the priorities of Guebuza government, and Chomera is expected to use a large part of his resources on public sector reform. On his first day as Minister, Chomera announced he would prioritize implementing public reform laws, which to date have not been put into practice, including the law 8/2003 that delegates more power from the central government to provincial governors.

Francisco Madeira, Minister in the Presidency for Diplomatic Affairs

10. (U) Francisco Madeira becomes one of two Ministers in the Presidency, though his portfolio has narrowed to solely Diplomatic Affairs. Madeira studied at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University from 1975 to 1997, at which time he also trained with the Customs Service. Madeira joined the civil service shortly thereafter, working as Chief of the Finance Minister's Office [1977-1978] before opting for a career with the diplomatic service. Upon graduating in International Relations from the Foreign Affairs Center in Dar-es-Salaam in 1979, he became Minister Plenipotentiary. He obtained a law degree from Eduardo Mondlane University in 1982 and in 1983 was appointed Ambassador to Tanzania [1983-1986] and Ambassador to Zimbabwe [1986-1989]. President Chissano appointed him as his Diplomatic Advisor in 1989. Between 1990 and 1992, he played a key role as a FRELIMO negotiator in the Rome peace talks between the government and RENAMO. More recently, Madeira served as President Chissano's envoy to the Burundi peace negotiations and took part in the Comoros peace process.

11. (SBU) Many believe Guebuza has retained Madeira, who was Minister of Parliamentary and Diplomatic Affairs from 1994, due to their close collaboration in the Burundi peace process. Madeira has recently been given the additional responsibility of working internally with political parties on government-related issues, which means that he will have less time to devote to foreign affairs.

12. (U) Madeira, born in Sofala province in 1954, is from the Ndau ethnic group, the same as RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama.

Fernando Sumbana, Minister of Tourism

13. (U) Fernando Sumbana remains in his post as Minister of Tourism, to which he was appointed in January 2000. He earned a degree in Economics from Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University in 1981 and also holds a Master's in International Management from Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management [1989]. Immediately prior to his appointment as Minister in 2000, Sumbana served simultaneously as President of the National Tourism Fund and Director of the Investment Promotion Center.

14. (SBU) Early in his tenure, Sumbana worked successfully to drop Mozambique's "visa in advance" requirement in an effort to facilitate tourism in Mozambique. Unfortunately, internal power struggles and organizational constraints kept him from being more effective in developing Mozambique's tourism potential. His staying on under Guebuza was expected, not necessarily due to his competency but owing more to his family's strong ties to Guebuza. The Sumbana family is said to have helped hide the young Guebuza when the Portuguese secret police learned that he had attempted to flee to Tanzania to join FRELIMO. Sumbana comes from a strong business background and he, himself, has numerous business interests in Mozambique, though he is known as one public official who separates quite well his personal business interests from his government role.

15. (U) Sumbana was born in 1954 in Manhia, Maputo.

Aires Bonifacio Aly, Minister of Education and Culture

16. (U) Aires Bonifacio Aly has been appointed Minister in the newly merged Ministry of Education and Culture. An educator by profession, Aly began his career as a secondary school teacher in 1976. In 1997, Aly was named Provincial Director of the Ministry of Education and served in this capacity until 1986, when he assumed the position of Educational Advisor to the Ministry of Education. During that time, Aly continued his post-graduate studies at Maputo's Pedagogical University [1986-1991]. From 1989 to 1993, Aly held various positions within the Ministry, including Chief of Staff and National Director. Aly was elected to the National Assembly on the FRELIMO ticket in the 1994 multiparty elections, but resigned a few months later when he was appointed governor of Niassa province. In 2000, he was appointed governor of Inhambane province, a post he leaves to assume his cabinet position.

17. (SBU) Aly is described as a hard worker, factors likely contributing to his appointment as governor of two of Mozambique's poorest provinces. As governor of Niassa, Aly initiated a project aimed at reducing extreme poverty through partnerships between Mozambican and South African farmers. Unfortunately the project failed for lack of financing; he is seen as a productive leader despite this setback. Aly leaves his post in Inhambane having led the province in establishing its first institute of higher education, the Eduardo Mondlane University Faculty of Tourism.

18. (U) Aly is a published author and holds two Diplomas of Honor from the Ministry of Education [1983 and 1986]. He was born December 6, 1955 in the northern province of Niassa.

Luciano de Castro, Minister of Coordination of Environmental Action

19. (U) Luciano de Castro replaces John Kachamila as Minister of Coordination of Environmental Action. Immediately prior to his appointment as Minister, Castro served as Vice Minister of Woman and Social Action. Castro holds a degree in Biology from the Technical University of Gusterow in Germany [1987]. Early in his career Castro taught in his home province of Nampula. In 1990, Castro was nominated as FRELIMO Provincial Secretary for Nampula province. In 1999, he was elected to the National Assembly and named a member of the Permanent Committee, positions he held until his appointment as Vice Minister of Women and Social Action in 2000.

20. (SBU) Luciano de Castro was born in Nampula province in 1955. He is recognized for his gentle manner and instructive/inclusive approach to managing.

Virglia Matabele, Minister of Women and Social Action

21. (U) Virgilia Matabele retains her post as Minister of Women and Social Action to which she was appointed in 2000 under Chissano. Matabele holds degrees in Modern Literature [1977] and Linguistics [1991] from Maputo's prestigious Eduardo Mondlane University. She began her career as a Portuguese teacher at Maputo's Commercial Institute [1977/1983]. Before being elected to the National Assembly in 1994, Matabele served as Head of the International Relations Department in the Ministry of Tourism and Director of Human Resources at the Ministry of Trade. While serving in the National Assembly Matabele was named Deputy Chair of the FRELIMO bench. She was elected to a second term in the National Assembly in 1999, but resigned upon her appointment as Minister. In June 2002, Matabele became part of the powerful FRELIMO 15-member Political Commission.

22. (U) Matabele is described as open and approachable. Matabele was born in 1952 in Zambezia province.
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